

Treatment of Special Populations

Mentally handicapped people in the 1930's were looked down upon by the members of society. They were simply considered to be 'stupid' or 'crazy'. During the 1930's, many mentally handicapped individuals had a life expectancy of only 20 years; they weren't taken care of as they are today, so they were unable to live for very long. Mentally handicapped people were often tied down to beds and kept from interacting with other individuals. They weren't considered to be worth much, so they were treated poorly.

During this time, these populations weren't given any rights. Times have changed since then, but during the 1930's, mentally handicapped people struggled beyond their mental vulnerabilities, because society gave up on them and they were put into institutes like animals in cages.

A lack of research made it almost impossible for mentally handicapped people to get any better or for their conditions to improve. The longing to help them was often not present, so many of these people were locked up in institutes until they passed on.

Mental hospital abuse increased during the great depression, there was a sudden rapid flow of patients coming into the hospitals for many reasons. Some were homeless and some families could not afford to take care of their children. Many people felt that mental hospitals in the 1930's were a sort of a "hell." Due to many hospitals being under-staffed and not having many ways for the staff to protect themselves from their patients, many patients were forced to stay in straight jackets for long periods of time; some of the more abusive staff members who worked in the hospitals would beat the patients into submission.

Some doctors did experimentation with medication and 'lobotomies', however, most of the time they were unsuccessful. Many patients were given drugs that left them in a zombie like state. There were also a few different types of shock therapy: insulin, Metrazol and electroconvulsive therapy. All of these therapies induced seizures in patients. Many psychiatrists claimed that these therapies worked by "shocking" patients out of their illness.

The families of mentally handicapped individuals were also shunned. They weren't treated right because of the conditions that their family members possessed. It was unfair and unfortunate.

To add to this problem, hospitals in the United States were overcrowded -- by 1940, there were around 1 million patients, and the population was growing by 80% per year. Conditions were also deteriorating due to a lack of funding during the Great Depression.



This light flashes every 15 seconds

Every 15 seconds \$100 of your money goes for the care of persons with bad heredity such as the insane feeble-minded, criminals & other defectives

Some people are born to be a burden on the rest.

This light flashes every 16 seconds

Every 16 seconds a person is born in the United States.



This light flashes every 7 1/2 minutes

Every 7 1/2 minutes a high grade person is born in the United States, will have ability to do creative work & be fit for leadership. About 4% of all Americans come within this class